



THE CHURCH'S LIFE
News of the First Presbyterian Church
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2024

From the Pastor's Desk



Darling people of FPC,

I am so incredibly grateful for the last two months as your pastor. I've had the opportunity to get to know a few of you a bit better, and I am looking forward to getting to know the rest of you. As I come to know each of you individually, I am struck with the sense that this congregation is a beautiful representation of the diversity within the Kingdom of God.

God's Kingdom can often seem like something lofty and heavenly, something we cannot touch in our day to day, but the Kingdom of God is present here for each and every one of you, right here in Wisconsin. It's said in Matthew that "when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me." (Matthew 25:40, CEB). Sometimes the least of these are those who struggle with housing or food security, but the least of these are also those who are suffering in grief, heartbreak, and with mental illness.

When we care for one another, as this congregation does so well, we can be reminded of Christ who knows our suffering and calls us to care for the least. I'd encourage you in these last few weeks of Lent to consider what care for the least of these looks like. Can you call another congregation member you haven't talked to in a while? Can you call or write to a family member you haven't seen recently? What would it look like if you said hello and genuinely asked how people were doing at the grocery store, the pharmacy, and the coffee shop? Maybe you do all of these things already, if so, I am so grateful that you're building connections with the people in your life.

If these are new ideas for you, consider the moments in your life when someone called to say hello or asked you how your day was going and it made your day a little bit better. Maybe you call it paying it forward or acts of kindness, but no matter the name, maybe there is a way to care for the Kingdom of God a little bit today.

May God grant each of you peace, as a beloved child of God this Lenten season.

Pastor Jo

Worship



Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24

10:00am Worship and Procession of palms

Maundy Thursday, March 28

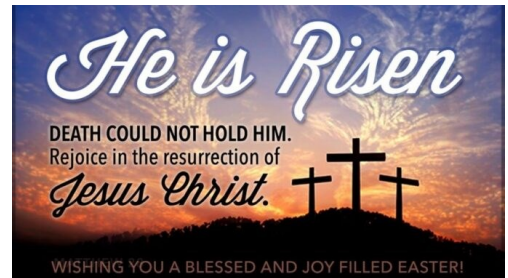
6:00pm Light supper and communion meal

Good Friday, March 29

12:00 Noon Worship

Easter Sunday, March 31

10:00am Worship and flowering of the cross



Mission



One Great Hour of Sharing Palm Sunday, March 24

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve indi-

Mission

75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

One Great Hour of Sharing (cont'd.)

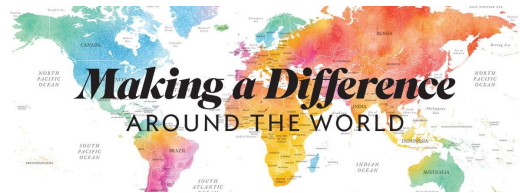
individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

On **Palm Sunday (March 24)** we will take the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Celebrating it's 75th anniversary this year, this offering has provided individuals and communities with/by:

- Over 55,000 pounds of seeds and seedlings for farmers
- 875 chickens to people in Guatemala and Columbia
- Empowering women in Malawi to become self-employed
- Providing 3.1 million dollars for disaster assistance in the U.S. and 35 other countries

And much more!

**Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry,
Empowering the Oppressed**



PPOW Collection for March



It's cereal time again! In March we are collecting cereals such as Cheerios, Honey Bunches of Oats, Life and other cereals that are a bit less sugary. Pick N Save often has Cheerios on sale - you may be able to actually save more that you spend! Hopefully, you have noticed that the collections table is now at the back of the sanctuary and includes a sign for the monthly item being collected (in case you forget!)

Thanks to everyone who brought soap and toothpaste in February - we have plenty for all of our families!

Christian Ed

Guatemala Mission Trip Presentation—March 10

On March 10, the Fahey family will share about their recent mission trip to Guatemala. The presentation will be immediately following worship. Please plan to attend!



Sunday School March 17

There will be Sunday School on March 17. Youth will be invited to leave worship after the Children's Message. The lesson and craft will be about Easter.

Thank You

Four pounds of pull tabs were donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Madison. There is more aluminum in the pull tab than in the entire can!! Over two million tabs are collected each year for the Ronald McDonald House in Madison. The proceeds help their mission to support families needing to focus on the healing of their sick children.



Thank
You

Keep saving those tabs and place them in the container under the PPOW donation table.



2024 Per Capita

It's a new year so you know we have to talk a bit about our Per Capita offerings for 2024, which like a lot of expenses, has gone up a little to \$36.30, about a 3.2% increase. Remember, as your resources allow, we need you to contribute \$36.30 for each family member who is a member of our church. This is the amount we pay directly to Presbytery, which keeps \$21.00, sends \$5.50 to the Synod and \$9.80 to the General Assembly.

You have three ways to make your offering: a check to the church left in the offering plate on Sunday, a check mailed to the church, or via our [online giving page](#). Thank you for making this contribution to our church budget.



Session News from February

Authorized Worship Committee to spend up to \$1000 to purchase new furniture for the Narthex)

Authorized the Finance Committee to open a Visa credit card at the church's bank with Pastor Jo and Dave Hanson as the sole signatories, and to create an Amazon account in the church's name with the church credit card and sales tax exemption number, to be used primarily by Pastor Jo and Dave Hanson with appropriate password and 2-step verification

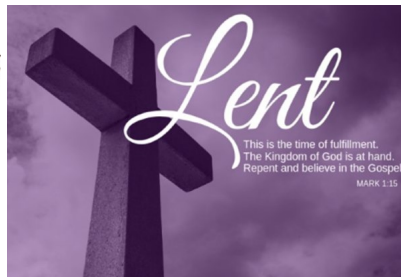
Agreed to submit an application to participate in the next cohort of Awaken Dane, a movement of churches awakening to God's call, forming life-giving friendships and partnerships, and growing in love for their home communities.

Changed the March Session meeting to March 21, 4 p.m. at the church (hybrid meeting)

Tom Niebauer, Clerk of Session



Holy Week





SINGING IN CHURCH ?

CHECK THE SCIENCE.

Recent scientific studies have shown that **music's power over us is not purely psychological** but based in measurable physiological changes. Singing along with others to a beloved (or familiar) song causes the brain to secrete the chemical *oxytocin*, a naturally occurring hormone that creates the warm sensations of bonding, unity and security that can 1) make us feel all cuddly toward our children and others we love; 2) **infuse us with feelings of spiritual awe**; and 3) alleviate chronic pain or the debilitating sensations of anxiety or isolation.

“...the power of music has been particularly remarkable...”

- from an article researched and written by John Colapinto, published in the Dec'23-Jan'24 issue of AARP Magazine, *“The Extraordinary World of Music and the Mind”*

Sing with the Choir at Beehive Sunday, March 3 after Worship



The church choir would like to invite the congregation to join them in a sing-a-long at the Beehive Memory Care Bldg 8 on this coming Sunday, from 11:00 - 11:30. We will be singing for Connie Mitchell and the residents at the Beehive. Come and spread some fellowship with our community.

I understand some of the residents have been experiencing some coughing, wearing a mask might be a good idea.

Nancy Sheldon, Connections Chairperson

Red Cross Blood Drive

Come show your support for a cause we can all get behind. Every day, Red Cross blood donors are a lifeline for car accident victims, patients facing complicated childbirths & those battling cancer. [#HelpCantWait](#) in an emergency. Roll up a sleeve & give this

March, Red Cross Month. **APPT LINK**  : [CLICK HERE to schedule an appointment.](#)



Oregon Community **BLOOD DRIVE**

St John's

625 E Netherwood, Oregon, WI

**SATURDAY MARCH 2ND
7:00 am – 11:00 am**

All presenting donors will receive a \$10 e-gift card merchant of choice, plus automatically entered to win a \$3K gift card.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [RedCrossBlood.org](#) | Download the Blood Donor App

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March Birthdays

Mar. 4 Megan Fahey
 Mar. 12 Barbara Sackett
 Mar. 16 Nancy Cox
 Mar. 19 John Mehl
 Mar. 25 Calvin Coyier

January Financial Snapshot

First Presbyterian Church of Oregon

Monthly Financial Summary

as of January 31,
 2024

	Monthly Amount	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget
Pledges Committed (Annual Budget \$117,440)			
Operating Cash Revenue from Pledges	\$ 7,832	\$ 7,832	\$ 9,130
Operating Income	January	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Income	\$ 9,336	\$ 9,336	\$ 10,247
Deduct: Total Expenses	\$ 15,408	\$ 15,408	\$ 14,669
Adjustments to Cash:			
Add: Transfer from Current Assets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Deduct: Transfer Memorial Fund Donations	\$ 320	\$ -	\$ -
Deduct: Principal Payment on Debt	\$ 886	886	\$ -
Net Operating Income (Loss) ADJUSTED	<u>\$ (7,279)</u>	<u>(7,279)</u>	<u>\$ (4,422)</u>
Cash Balance-Operating Fund	January	Year-to-date	
Beginning Balance	\$ 28,678	\$ 28,678	
Ending Balance	\$ 21,240	\$ 21,240	
Increase in Available Operating Funds	<u>\$ (7,438)</u>	<u>\$ (7,438)</u>	

Per Capita for 2024— The Per Capita payment for each FPC member this year is \$36.30 per person, a slight increase from last year. As you are able, please place your check made out to FPC in the offering plate or mail it to the church, or you may pay via our online giving page. Your per capita payment is much appreciated by the church and helps to meet our budget.